



# Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Agenda Item: 6A

## Advisory Information

**Title:** **Blueprint for Equitable Engagement Update**

☐ Action ☒ Discussion ☐ Informational

**Date:** October 28, 2014

**Prepared By:** David M Rubedor, Director, NCR

**Attachments:** None

**Requested Action:** This item is informational and does not require any action.

**Summary of Focus Groups:** Phase I of focus group sessions for the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement have come to a close. NCR staff appreciates the partnership, support and commitment of the NCEC commissioners that spent several evenings/afternoons actively listening and documenting the perspectives of residents and community leaders (neighborhood and community organizations). The following is a list of the 17 Blueprint focus group meeting notes:

- City Council's HECE and NCEC community meetings (2)
  - [7/31/2014 and 8/2/2014 Notes](#) (doc)
- African American Community
  - [9/25/14 Notes](#) (doc)
- Latino Engagement Task Force
  - [6/28/14 Notes](#)
- Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
  - [6/18/2014 Notes](#) (doc)
- Senior Advisory Committee and the Senior Skyway Center
  - [8/27/2014 Notes](#) (doc)
- Neighborhood organizations
  - [9/10/2014 Notes](#) (doc)
  - [9/20/2014 Notes](#) (doc)
- Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors
  - [7/2/2014 Notes](#)
- SE Asian Community Organizations
  - [7/18/2014 Notes](#) (Cambodian Community), [7/24/2014 Notes](#) (Lao Community) and [8/7/2014 Notes](#) (Hmong Community)
- East African Community Organizations
  - [7/19/2014 Notes](#)
- LGBTQ Community
  - [8/18/2014 Notes](#) (doc)
  - [9/25/14 Notes](#) (doc)
- Renter Community
  - [9/30/14 Notes](#) (doc)

*Note: An Urban Scholars (Youth) focus group was also held. The Urban Scholars discussion focused their discussion on engaging youth. These notes will be posted online by Friday, October 24, 2014.*

**NCEC CoW Meeting Notes:** At the Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> NCEC CoW meeting, we began the process of sorting through all of the notes from the 17 Blueprint focus groups. We ended up spending a considerable amount of time discussing the budget so we had less time to discuss the Blueprint. The group discussion focused on identifying themes and concepts common throughout the note. Listed below is the first summary of the discussion.

- Equitable engagement needs to lead to equitable decisions (development)
- Non-geographic engagement is needed – funded (AI MOU)
- Engage new residents on engagement
- City Academy needs to be more accessible
- Cultural competency training for law enforcement
- Localize 311 / better training
- City navigators – neighborhoods
- Board training for neighborhoods
- More diverse we become, the more welcoming people feel
- Groups look like people closest to them
- Technology can not be only method
- Tracking data
- City website not people friendly
- Food – fundamental tool
- Best practice sharing
  - More support about this from city and on-going support
- Understand city goals
- City having a role in leveraging resources
- Make city council smaller and part-time
- Need more youth
- Police / community relations
- Resource sharing – technology expertise
- Reward partnerships
- Mentoring
- Foster collaboration
- Business culture change
  - (i.e. city council downtown at 1:30pm)
- meet residents where they are
- multi-channel communication
- being valued
- retaining changes that we made
- follow-thru – how are things being used? Close the loop
- community shapes engagement
- communication

- consistent about engagement
- getting decisions makers into community
- come to us (community)
- Accessibility
  - Childcare
  - Transportation
  - Time of mtg
  - Interpretation
  - Food
- TIF – General Operations for Food

**Next Steps:** Staff and the 3 NCEC commissioners identified at the last meeting will continue to frame up themes and concepts and then begin to formulate specific recommendations. These will be discussed at the next NCEC CoW meeting on November 12, 2014.

**Background:** The City's Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) are utilizing an engagement strategy consistent with the [City's adopted Core Principles of Engagement](#) to create the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement to ensure the City's engagement efforts are equitable in their approach and implementation. An equitable engagement system ensures that all community voices are sought and valued and that decision makers reflect the communities of which they serve. The Blueprint for Equitable Engagement focuses in the following areas of the City's engagement work:

1. **[Neighborhood organizations:](#)** We aim to help neighborhood organizations assess whether or not their outreach efforts, board decision making processes and distribution of resources is being conducted with a lens of equity and inclusion. The City intends to include the 70 neighborhood organizations as partners in addressing racial disparities in our community. With access to local political and social resources neighborhoods are able to utilize millions of dollars annually and become central places of empowerment for marginalized community members;
2. **[City's board and commissions:](#)** The City has a goal of having the advisory and planning boards and commissions reflect the diversity in the community. The City Council charged both the NCR department and the NCEC with making recommendations on the best way to achieve this goal. Recommendations have been developed and are in either being considered or implemented.
3. **[City enterprise outreach and engagement.](#)** The NCR department supports the community engagement efforts of City departments and connects this work with the efforts stated above.